(d) the time by when the Committee is likely to submit its report to Government; and

(e) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Committee was constituted on 24.10.91 and it consists of a Chairman, a Vice Chairman and a Member, who are experts in the field of transport economics and railway working.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) The Committee is expected to submit its report by end of December, 1993.

US solution to Kashmir Issue

*84. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Times of India dated 11th October, 1993 to the effect that Washington Accord on Palestine would embolden the US to arm twist India and Pakistan into accepting an American solution to the Kashmir issue;

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government and steps proposed to be taken by Government in this regard;

(c) whether Government will resume bilateral talks with Pakistan's new regime to settle the Kashmir issue to avoid the dictates of the US; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) Government have seen media reports to this effect. Government are committed to resolving all differences with Pakistan bilaterally and peacefully in accordance with the Simla Agreement. There is no scope for any outside or third party involvement of any sort;

(c) and (d) Pursuant to a message from Prime Minister to the Prime Minister of Pakistan and the latter's response, a Joint Staetment issued by both the Governments on 24 November, 1993 reaffirms that in accordance with the Simla Agreement. Foreign Secretary-level talks would be held between the two countries at Islamabad from 1—3 January, 1994, during which comprehensive discussions on bilateral issues including J & K would take place.

Discussions on Bi-lateral issues with China

*85. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA:

SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister visited Beijing recently;

(b) if so, what are the areas of talks held with the Chinese Government for improving bilateral relations between the two countries; and

(c) what are the issues on which an agreement has been arrived at between the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) to (c) The Prime Minister, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao, visited China from September 6-9-1993.

The Prime Minister discussed a range of bilateral issues including high level visits, exchanges and cooperation in various fields including trade, economic, scientific, educational and cultural fields, and the boundary question. The discussions were extensive and covered all areas which are of interest and concern to us.

The visit resulted in the signing of four agreements, namely, an agreemen

on the maintenance of peace and tranquillity in the border areas along the Line of Actual Central (LAC) between India and China, an agreement on cooperation in environmental protection, an agreement on cooperation in radio and television and a protocol on the extension of border trade through Shipkila Pass.

The agreement on peace and tranquility along the LAC is an enabling agreement under which both countries will put into place confidence building measures such as redeployment of forces, prior notification of military exercises, steps to prevent air intrusions, and more regular and frequent meetings of border commanders. An expert group is being established to work out these arrangements and to determine the LAC where there are different views as to its alignment. The group is expected to meet soon. The agreement is without prejudice to the respective positions of the two countries on the boundary question. The two countries are working for a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable solution of the boundary question.

The agreement on environmental protection provides the framework for cooperation on bilateral matters as well as global environment issues such as biodiversity, global climate change and protection of the ozone layer. High priority areas identified for bilateral cooperation through exchange of experts and data and collaborative research projects, seminars and training projects, include waste management, pollution control, environmental impact assessment, environmental education and legislation. The agreement on radio and television cooperation provides for the exchange of songs and music and other radio television programmes and mutual exchange of television delegations and coverage teams. The border trade protocol provides for Shipkila Pass to be used as an additional route for border trade between India and China. Trade marks will be located at Namgya in Kinnaur District of Himachal Pradesh and Jiuba in Tibet.

अमरीका के राष्ट्रपति द्वारा काश्मीर मसले के सम्बन्ध में वक्तव्य

*86. **श्री बहुमदेव आनन्द पासवान** : क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि अमरीका के राष्ट्रपति श्री क्लिंटन ने हाल में काश्मीर के सम्बन्ध में यह वक्तव्य दिया है कि अंगोला से काश्मीर तक साम्प्रदायिक, धार्मिक और गृह युद्ध छिड़े हुए हैं; और

(ख) क्या सरकार यह मामला संयुक्त राज्य अमरीका के साथ उठाने का विचार रखती है; यदि हां, तो कब तक और यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ?

विदेश मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री आर०एल० भाटिया) : (क) और (ख) 27 सितम्बर, 1993 को संयुक्त राष्ट्र महा सभा में अपने भाषण में राष्ट्रपति क्लिंटन ने कहा"..... इस युग की नई शान्ति की आशा पर हम अचंभित होते हैं, लेकिन हमें यह भी मानना चाहिए कि गंभीर खतरे अभी भी बने हुए हैं। अंगोला से कौकासस और काश्मीर तक खूनी जातीय, धार्मिक तथा गृह-युद्धों का प्रकोप छाया हुआ है।"

संयुक्त राष्ट्र महा सभा में अमरीकी राष्ट्रपति ने अपने भाषण में कश्मीर का जो उल्लेख किया था उसके संबंध में पूछे गए एक प्रश्न के उत्तर में 29 सितम्बर, 1993 को सरकारी प्रवक्ता ने कहा था कि उन्होंने कश्मीर का जो उल्लेख किया है उसे तथा उनके समस्त भाषण पर गौर किया गया है और हम उसके प्रभावों का अध्ययन कर रहे हैं।" सरकार ने ऐसी परिस्थितियों के संबंध में पूछताछ की है जिनकी वजह से यह उल्लेख किया गया था और उसकी अनुपयुक्तता के बारे में चिन्ता व्यक्त की है ।